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Animal Science

2017

Animal Science E-Newsletter, December 2017

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Department of Animal Sciences

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Citation

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Department of Animal Sciences. (2017). Animal Science E-Newsletter, December 2017. *Animal Science e-Newsletter*. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/ansc-eneews/46>

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Research Highlight: *Beef Cattle Production*

Using 300 days of grazing principles to reduce hay requirements in southwest Arkansas

Paul Beck, Brandon Stewart, Michael Sims, Shane Gadberry, and John Jennings.

From 1976 to 2014, hay production per cow in Arkansas and the southeastern United States has increased by 136%. Producers have faced increasing costs of production with increases in costs of diesel, fertilizer, and equipment leading to large increases in the cost of hay production. Yet it has been estimated that hay is commonly fed for over 130 days per year in the southeastern United States.

Stockpiling bermudagrass provides a means to carry forage over from a period of excess forage production in the late summer to a time of forage deficit in the late fall.

Complementary forage systems based on warm-season perennial grasses and cool-season annual grasses have been shown to reduce hay and feed requirements for producers.

Rotational grazing has benefits for production, including: increased harvest efficiency by grazing livestock, improved persistence of desirable forage plants, and ease of application of additional management practices.

The objective of this research was to determine the effect of application of multiple grazing management practices at two stocking rates on the productivity and economics of the cow-calf enterprise in the southeastern United States.

- Increasing management intensity of production in intensive management at moderate stocking rate (MR) decreased stored forage requirements and increased forage availability during summer compared with low intensity management with continuous grazing (CG) at a moderate stocking rate.

- Even with the added costs of stockpiling bermudagrass and interseeding complementary cool-season annual grasses, net returns of MR were comparable to CG.

- Increased management intensity allowed stocking rates to double in intensive management with high stocking rates, decreasing costs per cow and increasing net return per acre, while reducing needs for stored forages compared with CG. }

Great Christmas Gift for Beef Lovers!

Animal Science Graduate Student Association presents:

"EAT BEEF" RAZORBACK VANITY PLATE FUNDRAISER

~~\$25 each~~

ON SALE FOR \$20 UNTIL DEC 31, 2017
silver or black



TO PURCHASE A VANITY PLATE:
CONTACT CALEB WEISS AT CW046@UARK.EDU
OR VISIT HIS OFFICE AT AFLS B120

All proceeds benefit ASGSA. Please pay in cash or check.

Horse Judging Team Competes Nationally

The UA Horse Judging Team represented the University of Arkansas at the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) Collegiate Contest in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) Collegiate Contest in Fort Worth, Texas earlier this December.

"The students did an excellent job and put in a semester of hard work," said coach Chelsea Campbell. "Not one of them had judging experience at the collegiate level going into these contests. Most of the other teams we competed against were finishing out their judging seasons, and here our students were just getting their feet wet. I'm proud of what they've accomplished, and I hope it sparks other students to be involved with the team."

The team placed 9th at the NRHA contest and 4th at the NCHA contest, winning \$750.00.

Team members include: Alexis Selman, Kyle Kennedy, Ashton Williams, Kaley Collins and Madison Powell; coached by Chelsea Campbell. }



Left to right: Kyle Kennedy, Kaley Collins, Ashton Williams, Alexis Selman, Madison Powell, and coach Chelsea Campbell.